in the second longitudinal section, the mixed material contains a second ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer, the first ratio being lower than the second ratio; and

in the third longitudinal section, the mixed material contains a ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer that varies along the length of the third longitudinal section.

10. A cable comprising:

a cable core comprising one or more electrically conductive wires; and

an outer sleeve surrounding the cable core, the outer sleeve having a uniform thickness and further having a central section having a first stiffness, an end section at each end having a second stiffness, and a transition section between each end section and the central section, wherein the second stiffness is greater than the first stiffness and wherein a stiffness of the transition section varies between the first stiffness and the second stiffness.

11. The cable of claim **10** wherein the second stiffness corresponds to a rigid cable and the first stiffness corresponds to a flexible cable.

12. The cable of claim **10** wherein the outer sleeve comprises a first layer made of a soft material and a second layer made of a stiff material and wherein:

in the central section, a thickness of the first layer exceeds a thickness of the second layer;

in each end section, the thickness of the second layer exceeds the thickness of the first layer; and

a total thickness of the outer sleeve is constant along the length of the cable.

13. The cable of claim **12** wherein the second layer is inboard of the first layer.

14. The cable of claim **12** wherein, in each transition section, the thickness of the first layer and the thickness of the second layer vary along the length of the transition section such the total thickness of the outer sleeve is constant.

15. The cable of claim **14** wherein the outer sleeve is formed of a mixed material containing a stiff polymer and a soft polymer and wherein:

in the central section, the mixed material contains a first ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer,

in each end section, the mixed material a second ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer, the first ratio being lower than the second ratio; and

in each transition section, the mixed material contains a ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer that varies along the length of the transition section.

16. An assembly comprising:

an electronic component having a housing; and

a cable disposed outside the housing, the cable including:

a cable core comprising one or more electrically conductive wires that extend through the housing and couple to the electronic component; and

an outer sleeve surrounding the cable core, the outer sleeve having a uniform thickness and further having a central section having a first stiffness, an end section abutting the housing and having a second stiffness, and a transition section between the central section and the end section, wherein the second stiffness is greater than the first stiffness and wherein a stiffness of the transition section varies between the first stiffness and the second stiffness.

17. The assembly of claim **16** wherein the second stiffness corresponds to a rigid cable and the first stiffness corresponds to a flexible cable.

18. The assembly of claim **16** wherein the outer sleeve comprises a first layer made of a soft material and a second layer made of a stiff material and wherein:

in the end section, a thickness of the first layer exceeds a thickness of the second layer;

in the central section, the thickness of the second layer exceeds the thickness of the first layer; and

a total thickness of the outer sleeve is constant along the length of the cable.

19. The assembly of claim **18** wherein, in the transition section, the thickness of the first layer and the thickness of the second layer vary along the length of the transition section such the total thickness of the outer sleeve is constant.

20. The assembly of claim **16** wherein the outer sleeve is formed of a mixed material containing a stiff polymer and a soft polymer and wherein:

in the central section, the mixed material contains a first ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer,

in the end section, the mixed material contains a second ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer, the first ratio being lower than the second ratio; and

in the transition section, the mixed material contains a ratio of the stiff polymer to the soft polymer that varies along the length of the transition section.

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